



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 6911***

LCO No. 4112



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT REQUIRING VERIFICATION TO REDUCE FALSE ALARMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-6c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Alarm system" means an assembly of equipment and devices  
5 arranged to signal the presence of a hazard such as unauthorized  
6 intrusion into a premises, an attempted robbery or a fire or smoke  
7 condition at a premises requiring urgent attention, [and to which the  
8 Division of State Police is expected to respond,] including, but not  
9 limited to: Automatic holdup alarm systems, burglary alarm systems,  
10 holdup alarm systems, manual holdup alarm systems, audible alarm  
11 systems and fire alarm systems. "Alarm system" does not mean a  
12 system that monitors temperature or is designed solely for notification  
13 of medical emergencies.

14 (2) "Alarm monitoring company" means any person, firm, company,

15 partnership or corporation engaged in the business of monitoring  
16 alarm systems.

17 [(2)] (3) "False alarm" means the activation of any alarm system  
18 including circumstances occurring off the protected property and  
19 within the control of either the subscriber, [his] the alarm business, [or  
20 his] the answering service or the alarm monitoring company to which  
21 the Division of State Police or municipal police or fire department  
22 responds but does not include any such activation caused by fire, a  
23 criminal act, emergency, or an act of nature such as an earthquake,  
24 tornado, hurricane or storm.

25 (4) "Monitoring" means the process by which an alarm monitoring  
26 company receives electrical or electronic signals from an alarm system.

27 [(3)] (5) "Subscriber" means an individual who buys, leases or  
28 otherwise acquires an alarm system and thereafter installs it or has it  
29 installed, including an individual who has control of the premises in  
30 which an operable alarm system exists.

31 (b) (1) The subscriber of an alarm system shall be fined for each  
32 [emergency police] response by the Division of State Police to a false  
33 alarm, except that such fine shall be [automatically] waived for the first  
34 three false alarm responses in a calendar year. [State] The subscriber of  
35 an alarm system installed on any state, federal and municipal  
36 buildings or properties shall be exempt from such fine. The subscriber  
37 of an alarm system shall be fined for each [emergency police] response  
38 by the Division of State Police to a false alarm in a calendar year not  
39 more than: [(1)] (A) Twenty-five dollars for a fourth [offense, (2)]  
40 response, (B) fifty dollars for a fifth [offense, (3)] response, (C) seventy-  
41 five dollars for a sixth [offense] response, and [(4)] (D) one hundred  
42 dollars for the seventh and each subsequent [offense] response within  
43 a calendar year. Such fine shall be used for the administrative costs of  
44 administering this section, and for training and educational materials  
45 of the state police. If the subscriber is not the owner of the property in

46 which the alarm system is located, the state police [trooper] shall give  
47 the property owner notice of the occurrence of the second alarm  
48 generated by the alarm system of the property.

49 [(c)] (2) Any subscriber who has received notification from the state  
50 police informing such subscriber that a fine is being imposed for a false  
51 alarm may appeal the fine not later than seven days after the receipt of  
52 notification by filing an appeal with the Division of State Police. The  
53 Division of State Police shall review the appeal and make a  
54 determination as to whether or not the circumstances surrounding the  
55 false alarms justify a waiver of the fine. The Division of State Police  
56 shall notify the subscriber, in writing, of its final decision.

57 [(d)] (3) All fines imposed pursuant to this [section] subsection shall  
58 be payable to the Division of State Police and shall be due not later  
59 than thirty days after the date of notification [,] or, in the case of an  
60 appeal, not later than thirty days after the date of the decision on the  
61 appeal. A subscriber who fails to pay the fine within the designated  
62 time period shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars.

63 (4) The subscriber of an alarm system may be fined by a  
64 municipality for any response by the police or fire department of such  
65 municipality to a false alarm under any ordinance adopted pursuant to  
66 subparagraph (H)(xiv) of subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section 7-  
67 148.

68 (c) (1) After each activation of an alarm system, an alarm monitoring  
69 company shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the subscriber, by  
70 telephone or other electronic means, to verify whether the activation of  
71 the alarm system was caused by fire, a criminal act, emergency or an  
72 act of nature such as an earthquake, tornado, hurricane or storm prior  
73 to requesting the Division of State Police or a municipal police or fire  
74 department to respond to the alarm. If the initial attempt to contact the  
75 subscriber fails and the subscriber has provided a secondary telephone  
76 number or other electronic means by which to contact the subscriber,

77 such company shall make a second reasonable attempt to contact the  
78 subscriber.

79 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not  
80 apply if an alarm monitoring company has a monitoring system that  
81 enables such company to verify by visual or auditory means that the  
82 activation of the alarm was caused by fire, a criminal act, emergency or  
83 an act of nature such as an earthquake, tornado, hurricane or storm.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	29-6c

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require that alarm monitoring companies make reasonable attempts to verify the validity of an alarm before requesting state or municipal police to respond to the alarm.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*